Volume 20, No. 17 • June 28, 2013

Nation

First Peoples festival

Grand Council Elections

Final Interviews

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Vote
Robert Kitchen
for Deputy Grand Chief

Singularly collective

by Will Nicholls

It's taken me a while to address last month's Supreme Court of Canada decision that limits individual rights to protest resource exploitation. It's a tough one as it looked at not only the duty to consult with Aboriginal Peoples before making decisions affecting treaty rights or agreements, but how and when Aboriginal or treaty rights can be raised. In the past collective or communal rights was part and parcel of every individual within a specific nation. Since May 9, 2013, that is no longer the case.

The ruling upheld communal but individually exercised Aboriginal and treaty rights to hunting, fishing, trapping or gathering. Then, however, the ability to exercise of rights evolves. The Behn decision says individuals from a First Nation cannot raise Aboriginal or treaty rights to challenge regulatory rights granted to a commercial party without authority from their First Nations government.

Basically, when the government grants a license or other rights to develop natural resources you can't put up blockades or interfere with the company – unless you have backing from your band council. Aboriginal Peoples are now limited to court actions. Given the "vast amounts" of cash reserves most Aboriginal communities have available for lawyers, we can expect little results that the communities affected will approve in a communal manner. In a lot of cases, most communities will not be consulted as most permit processes are not widely publicized. In any case, most Aboriginal communities lack the resources to keep abreast or contest such processes.

Many natural-resource exploitation companies must be celebrating this decision. They can use the police to enforce their desires to make a profit. This is being sold as part of mutual good faith in Crown-Aboriginal relations. This decision radically limits my (and other Aboriginals') ability to protect the communal rights that ensure our way of life. Now the power is given to those who have "authority" from the community to do so.

In many cases this may be confusing. Just look at Barriere Lake. The community is split with two competing band councils. One is recognized by Ottawa and the other isn't. Who decides on the authority? Obviously a non-Aboriginal federal or provincial government will say they have the right.

Looking back a few years, Cree leadership at first said all that was needed to sign a quasi-constitutional agreement was consent from the chiefs of each community. An argument was made that since this agreement was something that would affect Cree collective rights it should be decided by all the Cree and a referendum was held. This Supreme Court decision would hinder this exercise in democracy, as there would no longer be any reason to consult in a meaningful way. Only those who can demonstrate they speak for the nation are required to be consulted. You don't even have to involve the whole community if you have a band council in your pocket.

The Behn case involved a forestry company. How often are the Aboriginal people who are affected by forestry permits even aware of the request for these permits? The end result of this Supreme Court decision is that it is now open season on natural-resource exploitation involving Aboriginal lands. It should be interesting to see the fallout. As Paul Whitcomb said, "Deny a man the right to defend himself and you deny him all other rights."

Contents

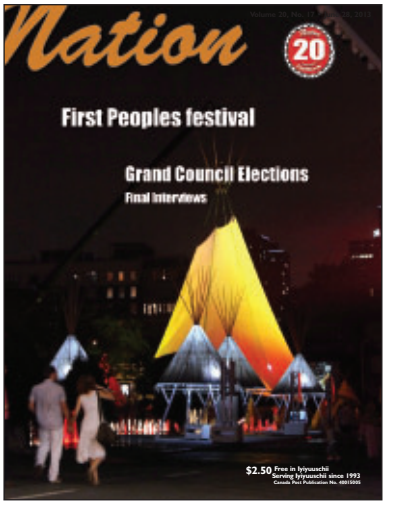
editorial
- Singularly collective 3

rez notes
- Josh's tips 4

news
- Killer sentenced 5
- A constant presence 7

features
- Elections Part III 10
- Aboriginal couture 34
- Raid in Waswanipi 37

UTNS
- Putting up with mosquitoes 41



Place des Festivals
photo by:
Marc Saindon, Terres en vues

Josh's tips for success in politics and Facebook

by Josh Iserhoff

Ouwah gosspeeyan wash! Mook wash sash ah'whapmik Sasibi'weeyou sash mook un'sasibi/you-yaminn… Saa sutchi-ibeejj my accent! Jeessou jikeen! lol

I notice everything and anything – my dear friend Cindy Coonishish can attest to that. I don't know why. I have always observed things and people, especially their reactions. Thank God we're all different, different in our own ways, cuckoo ways for some (those I especially enjoy). I love it all: the good, the bad, the ugly and the politics.

Have you been receiving Facebook friend requests from all of the candidates? If so, press NOT NOW (ignore was so harsh). I jest. Get all their info and challenge their feeds. Be polite, but allow your inner Simon Cowell to come out.

What I mean by noticing everything is that I've often met some interesting characters only after I first encountered them on Facebook. I swear I walked into a twilight zone and their personalities just switched into sainthood. I kinda like their dark side, like Annie Wilkes in Misery. I have experienced several SNL Amy Poehler-Seth Meyers moments – "Really? Really?"

Facebook has definitely helped to create characters in the Cree Nation. Some have eased into their new role so seriously that it's become insanely entertaining! I must say Roger Orr has got to win an award for the lengthy novels (I mean, replies) he posts on Facebook.

If Facebook is your gateway of expressing yourself than express yourself, but keep checking every minute how many "likes" you have, then switch your character and watch the "likes" tally up! Just don't get Linda Blair on us. Facebook saints remind us that whatever we write should reflect us. Hmmm. There's always a grain of truth in anything we post!

Let's switch topics and get into hair because I like the story of Samson.

I recently met several upcoming young leaders in Quebec like Justin Trudeau and Léo Bureau-Blouin (the youngest PQ kid ever elected to Quebec's National Assembly, or as Mutsumi Takahashi described him when he won, "I got shoes older than him!" Oh Mits, I love your wit!)

Anyhow, their hair is an entity in itself. Their hair has their own fan base. I am one! It cannot get ugly at any angle! I am so jealous ('cos mine is shying away).

Hair is everything in politics! Look at Ted's. It is slick and never out of place. I wish I had lived in the Lincoln days where it was okay for men to wear fabulous wigs. Weren't they all white? Never mind.

Every great man has great hair, except for Joe Biden. Oh, that's right; he is the second in command. GQ magazine agrees with me, but Donald Trump begs to differ. If you want to establish yourself a great man in politics, you better start conditioning that hair! (Please don't ever dye your hair too drastically; you might get trashed as we know who did.) Ladies, please blow dry that hair for it is your glory.

I say to the young guns, rock yer locks while it rocks. Just don't end up like Samson.

Last but not least – congrats to all grads who are celebrating this June. Stay classy!

Yours in Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government, Josh.

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Whapmagootsui man sentenced in family slaying

Peter Jr. Tooktoo receives 30 years for triple manslaughter in 2008

By Jeremy East, with files from Sonny Orr

Whapmagoostui community members witnessed the end of a tragic chapter in their Nation's history this month, as the final sentencing in the death of Minnie Natachequan and her two sons was delivered by Quebec Superior Court Judge François Huot on June 18 at the community's courthouse.

People from the community and across the river in Kuujjuarpik flocked to the long-awaited hearing, which was the final step in a court procession that lasted five years. In 2008, 40-year-old Peter Jr. Tooktoo was charged with first-degree murder in the death of Natachequan and their two sons, six-year-old Dawson and eight-year-old Peter after local police found them stabbed to death on August 22 of that year. Tooktoo was eventually found guilty on three counts of the lesser charge of manslaughter due a number of factors, including his extreme level of intoxication at the time of his crime.

About 60 people attended the proceedings in the small courtroom, overseen by a dozen police officers due to the sensitive nature of the case. Each audience member underwent a security check for potentially dangerous items before entering the courtroom.

The Natachequan family entered the courtroom last, led by Matthew, father and grandfather to the deceased. With tears being shed throughout the room, the emotional nature of their procession made it clear that the effects of this horrendous, alcohol-fueled crime will be felt in the community for years to come. Tooktoo wept openly in the prisoner's box, clutching a photo of Minnie and their sons.

All parties involved in the case made statements, with court proceedings being held in English, Cree and Inuktitut.

"Nothing will make things easier as I will always miss my daughter and grandchildren," an emotional Matthew Natachequan told the court in Cree, adding that what happened was the will of God and something that was beyond his family's power. Judge Huot offered his deepest condolences for the sorrow and despair of everyone involved.

Shedding tears throughout the procession, Tooktoo made a statement apologizing to those he harmed, adding that he wished he had never blacked out.

"Every day we're still in shock," said George. "People are still asking themselves how this could have happened in our community and how could it have been stopped."

Tooktoo had a history of violence against women and alcoholism at the time of the murders, having already been convicted of several other crimes including assault. George says the connections between alcohol and violence in the area must be addressed.

> "**I'M VERY SURPRISED AND DISAPPOINTED THAT SOME COMMUNITY MEMBERS STILL APPLAUD THE EXISTENCE OF THE TWO DRINKING ESTABLISHMENTS HERE** WHEN WE KNOW THAT A HUGE MAJORITY OF THE CRIMINAL, HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS ARE ALCOHOL RELATED"

Finally, the sentence was delivered. Found guilty on three counts of manslaughter, Peter Jr. Tooktoo was sentenced to 10 years for each count, to be served consecutively. However, Judge Huot found that each day of the five years that Tooktoo had already served would be considered as two days towards his total sentence, making his effective prison term 20 years.

Whapmagoostui Chief Stanley George said that he hopes the sentencing will bring about some sense of closure for the community.

"The community has waited five years for the conclusion to this case, and despite our different opinions on the sentencing, this is an opportunity for us to find some kind of closure," said George. Although the Chief acknowledged that he, like many others in the community, questions whether justice has truly been served, he hopes that the nature of this alcohol-fueled crime will bring about some form of positive change.

"I'm very surprised and disappointed that some community members still applaud the existence of the two drinking establishments here when we know that a huge majority of the criminal, health and social problems are alcohol related," said George. "Everyone in the community has to stand up against violence against women and children, so that this terrible sort of crime can never happen again."

Pssst...

Have any information you'd like to share with *the Nation*? Feel like there's something the rest of the Cree Nation should know?

Well that's what *the Nation* is here for. Call us at 514-272-3077 or write us at news@beesum-communications.com and we'll look into your story. If you don't contact us, your voice won't be heard!

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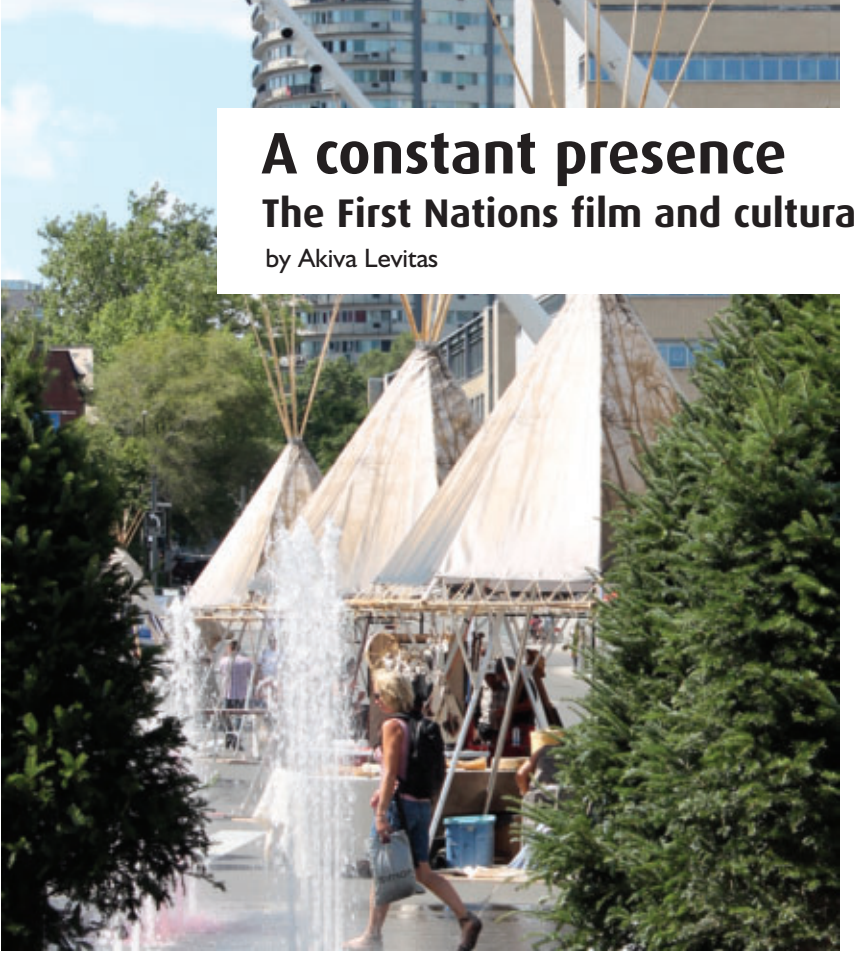
A constant presence

The First Nations film and cultural festival unveils its schedule

by Akiva Levitas



For the past 23 years, Land InSights has been bringing First Peoples Festival / Présence Autochtone to Montreal with a line-up of Aboriginal films and performances that rivals the city's other summer festivals. This year's event is no exception with dozens of films being screened for the first time at various locations July 30-August 5.

Paroles Amerikoises

CerAmony

Place des Festivals photo: Marc Saindon, Terres en vues

In the presence of two enormous puppets representing an earth spirit and a sky spirit, André Dudemaine, the jovial director of First Peoples Festival Présence Autochtone, announced the schedule and objective of the festival's 23rd edition.

"This is a cultural event that, as its name indicates, is a presence – and a constant one," Dudemaine said. The long list of performances and movies up for screening was presented to a packed audience gathered for the festival's press conference at the Grande Bibliothèque in Montreal.

The opening honours go to Paroles amérikoises, Pierre Bastien's film that gives centre stage to Aboriginal poets who took part in a gathering in the Innu First Nations of Ekuanitshit, located 200 km northeast of Sept-Îles. Competition for the many film awards being handed out at the festival, including the Rigoberta Mencha Grand Prize and the Teueikan Grand Prize, is fierce.

"This festival is a passion of mine which makes it extremely hard to choose what films to feature in light of the huge amount of Native talent in film-making," said Dudemaine about the selection process for the film entrants.

On the musical front, CerAmony and Digging Roots will rock the audience on August 1 when they perform the first of two free concerts taking place at the Place des Festivals. The following day, Électrochoc will pump up the audience with its electro beats while composer Katia Makdissi-Warren's new piece written for throat singers, DJs and chamber music will provide quite an interesting fusion of sound.

Once again, the festival will transform downtown Montreal into a living cultural experience where performances and rituals will offer festival-goers a chance to experience Canada's Aboriginal contemporary culture. Visitors will be able to explore photo exhibitions, watch Inuit sculptors at work, taste Amerindian cuisine, and watch independent Aboriginal films in a longhouse with a screening room.

For more info:
presenceautochtone.ca

Aboriginal Affairs minister defends Ottawa's funding cuts

The Conservative government is defending its further planned cuts to the Aboriginal Affairs budget. On June 9, many Aboriginal advocacy groups were shocked to learn that their funding has been cut within the latest rounds of austerity measures pushed forward by the Harper government.

Responding to the criticism, Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt shifted the focus towards education. "It is my sincere, profound belief that the greatest legacy that we can leave to First Nations in Canada is an education system that will give those young Native people the chance to get the education they need," Valcourt said.

But critics have pointed out that the problems in education have come from a lack of funding and will only be exacerbated by the looming cuts. Valcourt stated, despite abundant evidence to the contrary, that First Nations receive education funding from the federal government at the same level as funding provided by the provinces. Still, Valcourt admitted that more reform and better consultation are needed to ensure that funding is spread across the regions equally.

Valcourt also stated that the government's approach is being taken in order to help First Nations break free of the Indian Act. "We will not get rid of this Indian Act overnight, this is impossible. We're going to go incrementally," he said.

Iserhoff visits Australia

At the invitation of the Australian government, Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff addressed the inaugural conference of the World Indigenous Network in Darwin, Australia, on May 27. The

Ashley Iserhoff

conference brought together Indigenous groups from around the world with over 1,300 delegates representing 50 countries.

With a wealth of successful achievements by the Cree, Iserhoff shared past triumphs and future plans of the Cree of Eeyou Istchee. The Broadback Watershed Conservation Plan was at the centre of the long-term environmental conservation strategy for the region.

The advancements in self-governance by the Crees with the signings of the various past agreements provide a frame-

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work for other Indigenous groups to follow as they pursue their own paths to greater autonomy.

The purpose of the World Indigenous Network is to bring together all of the diverse Indigenous peoples of the world along with governments and researchers to work together on sharing their knowledge of environmental issues. The network was launched at the initiation of the Australian government and joined by the Rio+20 group of nations.

New project to map urban Aboriginal mobility

As Quebec's Aboriginal population continues to surge, people across the province are travelling between Nations and cities in unprecedented volume. This month, the Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Quebec (RCAAQ) announced the impending release of a new study carried out over the last four years with the ODENA Research Alliance. The groups aim to use social and economic mapping to better understand the conditions that govern the mobility of Aboriginals between urban environments and their communities.

"Our goal is to develop new documentation that reflects the dynamics in the mobility and circulation of Aboriginal people," lead researcher Carole Lévesque said in a press release.

The project is being accompanied by a major survey currently gathering information from 1000 Aboriginals living in urban environments that are home to a Native Friendship Centre.

"This information and these new profiles will assist the centres in their work," said Edith Cloutier, president of the RCAAQ. "It will help us to consolidate and build initiatives for accomplishing the Friendship Centre initiative."

Lubicon Lake Nation claims its rights

In Northern Alberta, the fight for First Nations rights to ancestral lands is moving towards another showdown between the Lubicon Lake First Nation and the federal and provincial governments. The Cree band is calling on the courts to block all further resource development on disputed territory until they gain the status as a reserve and to prevent millions of dollars in resources revenue from leaving the territory.

The claim is for ownership of 246 square kilometres of land, and for rights to trap, fish and hunt. The lawsuit also calls for the annulment of all oil and natural gas leases and permits granted to companies within the disputed area.

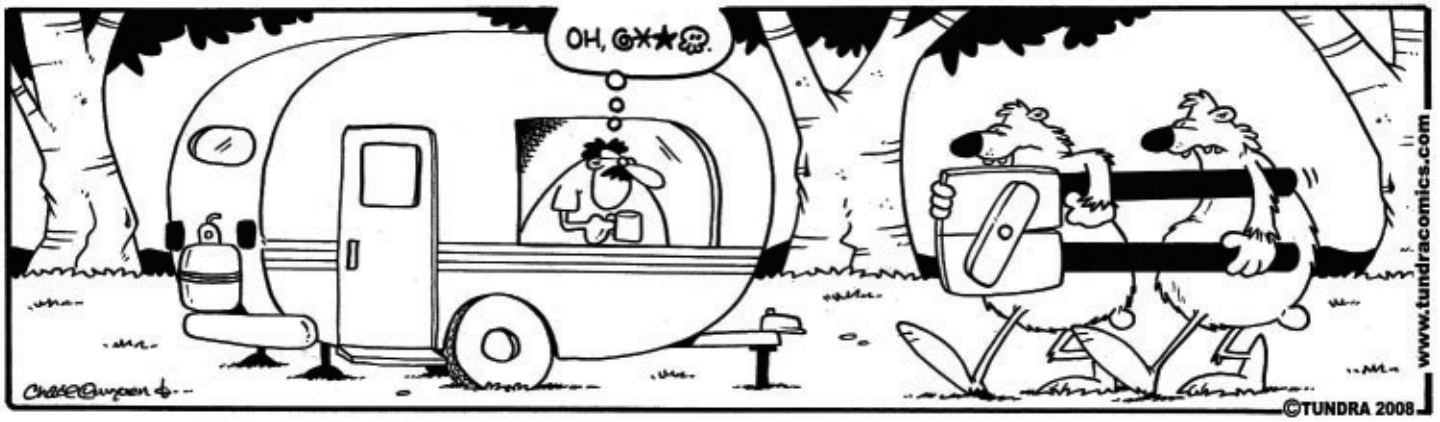
The lawsuit is being brought forward by Aboriginal rights lawyer James O'Reilly, who has fought for many decades on behalf of the First Nations of Canada. This is the second time that O'Reilly has filed a lawsuit on behalf of the Lubicon Lake First Nation.

During the 1980s, the Cree band began negotiating with the provincial and federal governments over the establishment of a reserve around the community of Little Buffalo. The agreement fell apart in the 1990s due to a breakdown in the dialogue between the federal government and the Band.

After being brushed aside during past decades, the First Nation has decided to act in lieu of waiting for a government response. "This is just the beginning," said Bryan Laboucan, a Lubicon council member. "If Canada and Alberta continue to be unreasonable and refuse to negotiate, we will exercise every option to force the issue forward for the betterment of Lubicon people."

Correction

The Nation would like make note of a correction to this year's Powwow listings in issue 20-15. The Ouje-Bougoumou Traditional Powwow was incorrectly listed as the Chibougamau Traditional Powwow, and is not organized by the Chibougamau Eenou Friendship Centre, although they are a part of the Powwow committee and will take requests for information.



feature

Elections Part III

The remaining candidates speak

by Amy German

As the election race for the positions of Grand Chief and Deputy Grand Chief heats up, more candidates accept our invitation to speak about their dreams for the future.
With perspectives from just about every point on the spectrum, some of these candidates have already run governments while others have had a hand in running smaller organizations and departments.
Which of the various candidates will be the new Cree leadership duo is a question for the Cree people to decide. To help this process along, the Nation presents interviews with the remaining candidates for the 2013 leadership race.

Matthew Coon Come
Grand Chief candidate

Tell me about you first and your career/political history.

MCC: At the start of my political career, I served two terms as Chief of the Mistissini First Nation. During my tenure as Chief, Mistissini had a new arena, an adult education centre, a bank, new administrative offices, new health facilities, and major improvements to its housing and community infrastructure. I decided then to leave for a while so I could work with my father on his trapline.

After spending considerable time with my father, I became Executive Director of the Grand Council. I was first elected as Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees and Chairman of the Cree Regional Authority in 1987, and served for four terms of office. During that time, I was directly involved in the Grand Council's successful effort to gain consultative status at the United Nations, and supported the Grand Council's use of its international status to being issues vital to all of the world's indigenous peoples before the international community. I also led the successful Cree campaign against the Great Whale River hydroelectric project.

While Grand Chief, I insisted that the voice of Eeyou Istchee be clearly heard in all constitutional processes, and I organized nationwide and international support for the right of Aboriginal peoples in Quebec to choose our own political future if Quebec tries to take Aboriginal peoples and lands out of Canada. When the rights of all of the Aboriginal peoples in Quebec were endangered by the 1995 Quebec Referendum, I insisted on respect for the Cree right of self-determination through our own historic Special Referendum.

I always insisted that the question of Cree rights needed to be central to all of our political positions. I brought this same message to the national stage when I became National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations from 2000 to 2003. I focused my efforts to end the federal policy of extinguishment of Aboriginal peoples' human rights of self determination.

I returned to Eeyou Istchee in 2009 and was again honoured by our people to once again serve as Grand Chief. It was my belief at that time that there was unfinished business in fulfilling the Cree vision of nation building. I believed that we needed to get back on track to fulfill that important vision which was vital to our future as an indigenous Nation. I said that we needed to abolish MBJ and put into place a new governance regime which reflected the reality of the Cree presence in the territory and that is what we have done.

Why do you want to run?

MCC: There are important things that still need to be accomplished which are related to fulfilling the Cree vision of nation building. We are now in a critical phase in our nation building agenda. We need to ensure the proper implementation of our Governance Agreement and put into place the various new organizational structures that will be required. On the Cree side, our Cree Nation

Government will be exercising new powers and jurisdictions over our Category II lands, approximately 70,000 square kilometres. We need to be prepared and we need to do that properly. We will be establishing a new regional government in which we will be playing an important role in exercising powers over Category III lands, some 350,000 square kilometres. We need to prepare ourselves for that as well. The next few years will be critical to the success of our governance initiatives.

We need to make sure that Cree people ourselves are prepared to take on these new challenges in a way that will help us work toward the achievement of our objectives and visions. In particular, we need to focus on inspiring, encouraging and supporting our youth to make their contribution to this noble Cree vision.

All this will require focused and experienced leadership and I have made this a priority for me personally, as a citizen of Eeyou Istchee, as well as a political objective if I am re-elected as Grand Chief.

What can you do for the Cree Nation that others can't?

MCC: It really isn't the Cree way to answer a question like that. I will not say that I am better than any other candidate nor will I imply that others are not capable. We will need all the talent and skills of all the people of the Cree Nation to accomplish the vision of Cree nation building, including the other candidates. We will need them. I can only show what I have accomplished and that I have a vision of what the next four years should be like and what we need to do to get there. I will explain to people the depth of my commitment to achieving a very long-held Cree vision of becoming the "masters of our own destiny." The people will decide the rest. It is for the people of Eeyou Istchee to answer that question.

Give me your thoughts on an issue like education. There are many Crees with lower reading levels or who have dropped out. How would you address education for the Cree youth and adults?

MCC: Education, training and skills development will be critical to the success of our nation-building vision. I am pleased that our Cree School Board has begun to show more successful results than in the past, and we must not only build on that but we must also develop new and innovative ways of ensuring that our youth and our adults are in a position to make positive contributions to the goal of making the Cree Nation the major economic and political force in Northern Quebec. The only way to do that is to learn to master the tools of governance and to further develop our economic development capacities.

It is precisely for this reason that I authorized the Cree Roundtable on Capacity-Building. This past spring we brought together Cree post-secondary students to inspire them to stay in school and to acquire the skills and education so that we can take the next step in Cree Nation-building. In a very real way, the success of all our historic agreements to date rests on our ability to take advantage of the opportunities created by those

Matthew Coon Come

agreements. The realization of the dreams contained in those agreements will rest with the next generation who will need to rise to the occasion and make those dreams a reality.

What is your plan to stimulate the economy in Eeyou Istchee?

MCC: In the area of economic development my plan for moving forward has three major thrusts. First, as our involvement in the governance of the region increases there will be a great need for our people to become involved in the technical realities of land-use planning and environmental management. There will be new employment related to the increase of Cree jurisdiction throughout the territory. This new employment will be in addition to the employment opportunities that will continue to be available to our people in our various Cree entities.

Second, we know that resource development will continue to expand in Northern Quebec and we will need to be a part of that to ensure that there is adequate protection of the environment, to ensure that our communities participate, and to ensure that our Cree people benefit from that resource development. In addition to mining development, there will be development in other sectors as well including tourism, forestry, energy, biofood production, transportation, wildlife, protected areas, and a number of others. These are all sectors

CREE NATION OF MISTISSINI

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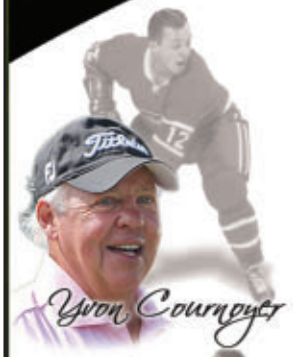
July 18th, 2013

10th Annual Stanley Longchap Golf Classic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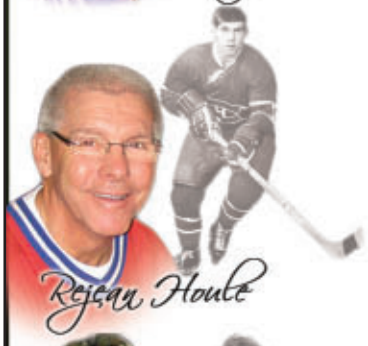
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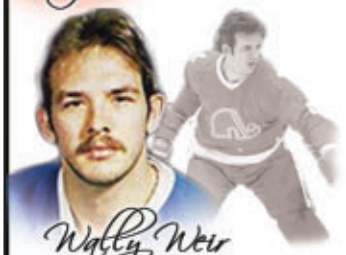
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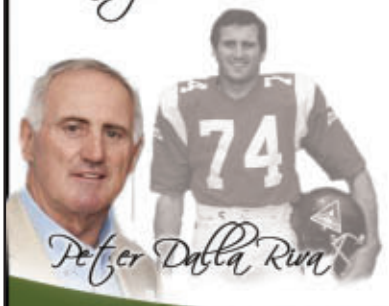
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that we are interested in as well, and we will continue to explore opportunities in all of them. We are also very interested in the different kinds of infrastructure projects that will be needed to promote these sectors. We will need to be involved and we will need to benefit from them, while at the same time, ensuring that development will be sustainable and in keeping with our approach to social acceptability.

Thirdly, we will, over the next few years expand and fully develop the role of the Cree Development Corporation in relation to development activities within Eeyou Istchee. This entity will become the major economic development arm of the Cree Nation and will allow us to fully participate in the development of our region. It will be through this important entity that we will be able to take advantage of opportunities

"WE CAN NO LONGER SWEEP OUR SOCIAL PROBLEMS UNDER THE RUG HOPING THAT THEY WILL GO AWAY. THEY WILL ONLY BE SOLVED IF WE ARE HONEST IN ADMITTING THE PROBLEMS AND APPLY OUR CREATIVE ENERGIES TO DEALING WITH THEM."

within our territory and to create the employment and income that our people will increasingly require. We are preparing ourselves to become the major economic force in the region.

Is there anything that you would like to see happen for the health of the Cree Nation, given that there is still a diabetes epidemic happening and many are also suffering from other illnesses related to obesity?

MCC: I have always maintained that our success in building a dynamic and healthy Cree Nation requires that we have a solid foundation to build that Nation on. We need to have healthy individuals, healthy families and healthy communities – healthy in body, healthy in mind and healthy in spirit. If the foundation of a house is not built solidly then that house will not last long and it will crumble. It is, therefore, absolutely essential that we focus on the problems facing our communities and that we apply the same determination and creativity to addressing our health and social problems that we have applied to our political challenges over the last 40 years. This is an absolute priority. We can no longer sweep our social problems under the rug hoping that they will go away. They will only be solved if we are honest in admitting the problems and apply our creative energies to dealing with them. There is now too much at stake and we cannot, as a Nation, afford to ignore those problems. As with education and the need to inspire our youth to rise to an important challenge, we need all the energies, commitment and dedication of the entire population of Eeyou Istchee to contribute to our collective mission of building a healthy and prosperous Cree Nation. This is the challenge before us and we need everyone.

This has been an era of intensive negotiations. How would you carry this on and how would you stand on guard to ensure that the rights of the Cree people are maintained?

MCC: Ensuring that Cree rights are maintained and protected is, of course, something that I have a great deal of experience with. It has been at the core of my activities for every one of the terms of office I have served as Grand Chief, and it continues to be the basis for all of our dealings with both the provincial and federal governments. That will never change. We are currently in the implementation phase of the Governance Agreement with Quebec and my representatives are working very hard to make sure that it is implemented in accordance with our expectations when we signed that Agreement. Similarly, we are concluding negotiations with Canada on a Governance Agreement, which will address a number of issues related to our governance of Category I lands. In all cases, Cree rights are fundamental to our approach and we will not permit any erosion or dismissal of Cree rights.

Give me an example of an issue you have championed and how?

MCC: I think that my entire career in Cree and Aboriginal politics has been about championing the cause of Cree rights. I think the highlights of my career in championing important Aboriginal issues are the struggle we waged against the Great Whale hydroelectric project during which we coordinated local, provincial, national and international pressure to achieve the recognition of our rights. Also, we mounted an effective campaign to ensure the respect for Cree rights in the context of possible Quebec secession from Canada, which culminated in our own Cree Special Referendum. With these important campaigns, as well as others, we demonstrated to the world that the Crees have rights and those rights will never be ignored.

What can you do at the helm of the Cree Nation that currently isn't being done, or in your case, what would you do differently with a new term?

MCC: As I mentioned earlier, a number of important initiatives have been put in place over the last four years that build on the historic agreements of the last 40 years. It is important to maintain our momentum and maintain a steady course to ensure that all the pieces of the puzzles related to the creation of our Cree Nation are put into place. It is my belief that we cannot afford to lose that momentum and that we cannot afford to veer away from the direction that we are following. Much remains to be done. As I mentioned earlier we are now in a critical phase in our Nation-building agenda and we must stay the course.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

MCC: I would like to encourage all of our citizens in Eeyou Istchee to participate in the upcoming election. It is through

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Cree School Board
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these elections that people can express their views and shape the future of the Cree Nation.

We have all been deeply inspired recently by the march of the Nishiyuu walkers when they embarked on their journey from Whapmagoostui to Ottawa in order to show their support for the need for change in the way in which Aboriginal issues are dealt with in this country. They also reminded us of the need for unity among Aboriginal peoples as we face a difficult moment in the history of our relations with governments. In the same way, we in Eeyou Istchee must hold dear that message of unity as we approach this next election. Regardless of the outcome, we must remember that we have an important mission to fulfill – the mission of Cree Nation-building – and in order to fulfill this mission we must remain united, we must remain strong and we must never forget the core Cree values which have brought us to this point in history and which have sustained us through the difficult struggles of the last 40 years.

Virginia Wabano
Deputy Grand Chief candidate

Tell me about your first and your career/political history?

VW: My first recollection of getting the taste of politics was when I attended Timmins High and Vocational School. During our history class we had debates on Aboriginal issues and rights and to my surprise we were actually divided by our ethnic race. The debates were very intense and yet very disheartening to hear the views that other groups had on Aboriginal people.

From there I felt that we needed to defend our sovereign right as Aboriginal People. As time went on, I become actively involved with student councils and elected as president in the educational institutions I attended to support the Aboriginal student population in various areas; such as advocating for recognition and respect for our values and traditions.

Later on when I began employment with various organizations such as the Mushkegowuk Tribal Council, it became more evident that Aboriginal issues were of great concern. I became eagerly involved as much as I could and gained political status on various provincial organizations such as the Ontario Native Women's Association, Ontario Aboriginal Counselling Association, Aboriginal Woman Solidarity, President of Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee Association and a Board Director for the Quebec Native Women, representing the Cree Nation.

Why do you want to run?

VW: I feel that from all the experience I was given and the different employment capacities I held in my life, it is time I give back to the community and to the people. I want to acknowledge my deepest appreciation to my children for their support in encouraging me to take on this big role. They said to me, "Mom, you can do this, you always did help people." With those words, I decided I would accept my nomination. With that being said, I want to extend my gratitude to Gerti Murdoch for nominating me and as well to those that supported her nomination. Meeg-wetch.

Virginia Wabano

What can you do for the Cree Nation that others can't?

VW: The Cree Nation has accomplished many triumphs and I am proud to continue on the work that former and current leaders have set for us.

One of the challenges is engaging youth to become active participating members in the future of the Cree Nation. Youth can play an important role in the development of the Cree Nation; therefore it's time we give power to the youth to become involved in developing programs and services that are geared and who have the understanding of what our youth of today need in regards to social and health development, political and cultural aspirations, education and community development.

Give me your thoughts on an issue like education. There are many Crees with lower reading levels or who have dropped out. How would you address education for the Cree youth? Adults?

VW: Speaking from the experience as a teacher, I have seen many challenges that our students face in regards to reading and dropout rates. Many times I have seen the on-going

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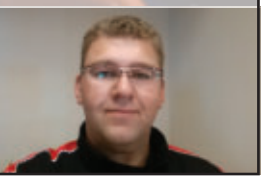

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changes in the CSB education system that adds to their challenges as well.

I am a strong believer that sports and education are complementary to each other because mental and moral development is not possible without physical development. Sports should be given special status in educational institutions and the benefits gained from engaging in exercise contribute much in academic success and achievement for all students. As well, my coaching experience with youth sports teams has proven to reduce the risk of dropping out at the secondary level, and as a result, become engaged in their efforts to become successful learners; and as well it lowers the related costs to welfare and other social services.

How do you see yourself contributing to Cree economic life?

VW: All Cree communities have the capacity to build self-sustaining economies. It is necessary to identify the resources available within the community, identify the economic opportunities that can be accessed and develop an environment where the entrepreneurial spirit can prosper. We need to dedicate our support to providing micro businesses the knowledge, support, and connections they need to become successful business owners. The goal of micro businesses is to succeed and my role as Deputy Grand Chief is to make sure they are successful.

Is there anything that you would like to see happen for the health of the Cree Nation – rampant diabetes, obesity and illnesses stemming from that?

VW: Sport is very important in our community life. People do exercise, jog, train themselves in fitness programs and fitness centres, and take part in sport competitions. There is no doubt that taking regular physical exercise reduces the frequency of obesity, diabetes and heart diseases to some extent, so that increasing the number of sports facilities in the local communities can help people to establish an active lifestyle, thereby improving their health condition. Diseases are caused by various factors, such as eating unhealthy food and neglecting regular check-ups. It is important that Cree entities such as Cree Health Board, Cree School Board, and Cree Regional Sports make health education a priority and continue to raise public awareness. Physical education is an important subject at school. Youth show endless energy; this energy can be transformed into creativity through sports. Physical education, games, sports and arts in educational institutions can be promoted right from the beginning of the school year.

This has been an era of intensive negotiations between the Crees and the province. How would you support the Grand Chief in this area?

VW: As Deputy Grand Chief, I would support the Grand Chief in maintaining and advocating the best interests for our people in the guardianship of a culturally, socially, environmentally and economically viable society for our Cree Nation and future generations.

Give me an example of an issue you have championed and how?

VW: For me, one issue that has been a great success is the continuity of maintaining and supporting the need to create an environment for those to freely practise their beliefs. We live a in a world of diverse beliefs and to be accepting to one's beliefs is challenging for many, however, my motto is "if it changes your life, then let it."

The support we provide to practise our beliefs is the core of our wellbeing and contributes to leading healthy lifestyles. Being actively involved with the "Carrying our Traditions" movement for the past 10 years has given me much pride and admiration to see youth growing up living healthy lifestyles because they were given the opportunity to practise and live the life of their beliefs and practises.

"THE HEART OF MY POLITICAL STANCE HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE VALUE OF COMMUNITY, ITS SOLIDARITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUALITY. SOCIAL CHANGE IS AN ISSUE THAT REQUIRES MOBILIZATION IN ORDER TO BEGIN SEEKING METHODS TO GENERATE EQUAL SOCIAL CHANGE. "

What can you do at the helm of the Cree Nation that currently isn't being done?

VW: Social change is an issue that has been neglected. The heart of my political stance has always been the value of community, its solidarity, social justice and equality. Social change is an issue that requires mobilization in order to begin seeking methods to generate equal social change. We live in a fast-changing society and these changes can play a role in the life our Cree Nation, some good and some not so good.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

VW: Yes, I want to thank my guardian angel, my mother Alice, who is near me in everything that I do and in the end it all works out, her presence guides me to do what is right. I also want to thank my dad, Oliver Small (Kapashesit) who encourages me every day to live a life of respect and filled with laughter. My humorous side comes from him. Last but not least, one thing that I am very proud of is getting the education I needed to be where I am today. It's been a long and challenging road but with the support of family and friends I have achieved my

education at all levels: elementary, secondary, post-secondary and university.

I surely appreciate the long-standing relationships I have developed over the years with countless people. Some of them refer to me as mom, as I was a foster parent for many years and as well took many youth under my wing that faced challenges in their personal lives.

Meeg-wetch and May the Great Spirit continue to guide and protect you daily. Take care of yourself and each other. Wachay.

Roger Sandy
Deputy Grand Chief candidate

RS: I am from Whapmagoostui and I went to school as far as getting my management certificate from the Université de Sherbrooke.

My first involvement with the community was becoming a police officer and so I was a front-line worker (in that respect). I worked as a police officer for seven years and then I became a police director for another seven years and so that is my background.

I was also the Director General of band operations for over three years. I am also a local official as a council member. I am also a school commissioner and the president of the local Economic Development Board of Directors and so I am in charge of the economic file in the community.

I am a married man, have been for the last 22 years and I have six children as well as three grandchildren. I have also been clean and sober for the last 23 years and so alcohol and drug abuse are not a part of my life.

Why do you want to run?

RS: I accepted my nomination because I want to make a difference at the CRA administration level. I also want to be part of the changes that are happening in our Cree world. For example, for me, accepting my nomination means that I would like to prepare the path for the next generations that will be taking over our Cree nation.

I am confident that I can be beneficial to the Cree Nation with all of the administration knowledge that I have gained.

Also having been a front-line worker, working with these social issues and so that is why I have climbed the ladder in trying to make a difference.

This is why I have accepted to run, a very big part of it is to help the Cree Nation.

What can you do for the Cree Nation that others can't?

RS: What I can say is that I have commitments to my platform that I will be addressing to the Cree nation.

The Cree once owned the power and I want to give them back this power. I want to amend some of the bylaws at the CRA level to accommodate certain things.

I would like to amend the Council Board bylaw as well as the construction bylaw that exists by creating some new seats: one for women, one for Elders and one for the youth as I think that this will bring about balance.

I would also like to amend or create a Cree construction bylaw, depending on what already exists. If one exists I would like to amend it, or create one anew with the idea of accommodating more of the Cree companies that exist in our communities as well as the smaller entrepreneurs.

Give me your thoughts on an issue like education. There are many Crees with lower reading levels or who have dropped out. How would you address education for the Cree youth? Adults?

RS: I was only involved with the Cree School Board for one year and I like the style that they have.

I also like the way they want to change education in the Cree nation and so I am 100% supportive of the Cree School Board and their vision.

For me, with the young people who are having difficulties learning and those who have dropped out, a lot of this has to do with social issues within the home.

So, in order for us to motivate these youth, we need to create programs to assist those youth who are struggling. We need

Roger Sandy

things like graduation celebrations in the communities and create sponsorship programs to help motivate parents.

This is something that could be reflected by the recreation departments in every community. For example, there was a young child that has been in and out of foster care since he was a toddler. As it turned out, this kid has a very remarkable gift at hockey and he is about to reach the point where he should be playing at a higher level but the support system for that is not there. So, with all of these drop outs that we have; if we focus on creating programs for them where we can identify the talents that they may have it may be the key to keeping them in school. In this case it would have been ideal to have a sport-études program.

> "THERE IS ALSO A LACK OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN GROUPS LIKE THE CRA AND THE COMMUNITIES AND ALSO THE REGIONAL ENTITIES AND THE COMMUNITIES. THIS IS AN AREA THAT I WOULD IMPROVE AND I WOULD DO IT THROUGH THE AGA RESOLUTIONS."

My platform touches on this issue and, were I to get in, I would like to meet with the Band Councils for the 10 communities.

How do you see yourself contributing to Cree economic life?

RS: My father owned a convenience store here for 18 years and he did this without an education and he also couldn't speak English. While he had never even gone to elementary school, he had a vision as an entrepreneur of what he wanted to do and he hired people to help him make this business work.

I grew up in this environment, hearing about small entrepreneurial programs and so I fully support the economic development of the Cree Nation. This is why in my platform I talk about investing in economic development at the regional level so that all of the communities can benefit from this. Economic growth is a major positive thing in our communities.

You get can get a job and that is the thing that will cut away from the crises that so many families face. A job can change the life of a person and really help them feel better about themselves.

I support economic development because I grew up hearing this message every day and it is fact. I have worked in it, I have lived in it and I was there from the day on that they opened up that convenience store.

During that 18-year period, never once did the local or regional government financially support that convenience store. So, if that can work for all of those 18 years, why couldn't other small business entrepreneurs work through a community-level support network created for them through the CRA?

Is there anything that you would like to see happen for the health of the Cree Nation – rampant diabetes, obesity and illnesses stemming from that?

RS: One of the things that concerns me the most in the Cree world is that there is a real lack of educational prevention programs for our communities. I think that we need to address obesity through a team network that involves certain entities such as the Cree School Board, the CBHSSJB and local/regional governments. We also need to use the recreational departments for this.

We can't just have our youth striving to become professional hockey players; our youth need to learn the basics of exercise and healthy living from a very young age. They need to understand things like how an individual can turn to emotional eating and abusing food like any other substance.

Healthy living programs need to exist in every community and our entities need to be involved. The goal must be to educate the people.

This has been an era of intensive negotiations between the Crees and the province, how would you support the Grand Chief in this area?

RS: Everyone has a different point of view and mine is that community consultation should take place prior to negotiation in the Cree nation. Our representatives should be telling the people what is on the table and asking the people for their own input.

You don't just hire a bunch of consultants or get the executive members of the CRA to try and decide what is best for our Nation because sometimes really important matters get overlooked.

The CRA negotiation team has to do community consultations when it comes to negotiating and this means going to the communities and taking the time to listen to what the people want.

Nothing should be negotiated that has not been approved by the people.

Sometimes what happens with these negotiations is that we only find out about certain details at the very last minute and then we don't get the chance to have a say because this has already gone through. On top of it we hear from the leadership that we have elected them to make these decisions for us. This is why you need the permission from the people and that is why the power needs to be given back to the Cree people. We are deciding our future here.

Give me an example of an issue you have championed and how?

RS: When I was the Police Director I implemented a program called community-based policing. The officers had to be at the same level as the people they were serving. That meant getting involved in community programs to show their presence so that it could be felt that they were working for the community, whether or not they were in uniform.

So, in enforcing their programs, we held a community talk show and had 89 callers and only one out of the 89 calls had

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Waychia,

My name is Roger Sandy and I am a proud member of the Whapmagoostui First Nation and the Cree Nation.

I humbly accepted my nomination to run for the position of Deputy Grand Chief because I believe that my experiences and my ideas can contribute positively to the advancement of the important issues that affect our people today.

I created a facebook community page, accessible through www.RogerSandy.com, where I will continue to post my position on some of the important issues affecting our people today and where I hope that, through the solutions I propose and the answers I provide, I can convince you to vote for me.

Thank you,

Roger Sandy

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The *Nation* is turning 20! To commemorate this historic occasion, the *Nation* is embarking on a retrospective countdown to its 20th Anniversary in November 2013. In the next 9 issues, the *Nation* flashback will feature some of the *Nation*'s stories, photos and award winning coverage throughout the years, which will be compiled in a 20th collector's edition issue.

September 25, 2009

Remembering Albert

By Will Nicholls

It was with a great sense of loss when I heard of Albert Diamond passing on. Albert was more than just a wonderful person; he was always so kind and considerate to all that we always welcomed seeing him at every opportunity.

His passing will not only leave a void in our lives, but in the hearts of all those who knew him.

At a time like this, we are at a loss for words to express our deepest feelings to someone who has lost a loved one. How to say it to bring comfort? How to say that we care? How to say that we understand?

With Albert, it will be the little things that you will remember, the quiet moments, the glint in his eyes, the smiles and the laughter. Albert was a joyous man who loved and embraced life to the fullest.

And although it may seem hard right now, it will be the memories of these little things

that help to push away the pain and bring the smiles back again.

As an unknown author once said, "Some people come into our lives, leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never the same."

Favorite covers from 2009

COUNTDOWN TO 20TH.... 9 ISSUES LEFT

Nation 20 1993-2013 flashback

20th flashback brought to you by
Quebec Native Women

FAQNW

Quebec Native Women is proud to celebrate the Nation's 20th anniversary. The Nation is a very important and credible source of information on Aboriginal issues, not only for the Eeyou people but for all peoples in Quebec. The Nation has been covering QNW issues and events for 20 years and as such has allowed more people to learn about Aboriginal women issues which are questions that are of concerns for all our communities.

Happy anniversary to the Nation and we wish another 20 years of information and cooperation.

Viviane Michel, president of Quebec Native Women

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Catch the radio show called "Iiyuu Companii Tipaachimuun" on JBCCS every 2 weeks
Thursday mornings at 8:15-8:45am and replayed on Saturday mornings at 9am.

Iiyuu Companii Tipaachimuun

A presentation of The Board of Compensation and the Cree Regional Economic Enterprises Company

A TALK WITH

Darlene Cheechoo,

Chairperson of the Board of Compensation and Creeco

CREECO DUMAS

A Cree woman from Waskaganish, with an impressive resume of a Masters of Law, Degrees in Common Law, Civil Law, Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Arts, she worked with various Cree entities. She was first elected to the CRA Board of Compensation in 2008, and in December 2012, she was elected chairperson of BOC Creeco.

Today we are going to be talking about CREECO Dumas. What is CREECO Dumas?

Wachiya. CREECO Dumas is the newest company operating under the CREECO banner focused on the mining sector. CREECO signed the strategic Partnership Agreement on March 22, 2012 and we are actively promoting this new company to potential mining projects in Eeyou Istchee and across Canada.

Who is Dumas Mining and why did CREECO partner with them?

Since 1994 Dumas mining is a major open pit and underground mining company that is a leading international mining company that provides mining services throughout the Americas - Mexico, Peru and Guatemala. With more than 2,000 highly qualified and safety-focused employees, Dumas continues to enjoy steady growth in high-demand markets. We wanted to be well positioned and ready to pursue and maximize the benefits for the CREE Nation with the growing mining opportunities in Eeyou Istchee. One of the ways was to position with an established company who knows the industry well and has a successful track record.

What made Dumas stand out as the company to partner with?

As part of CREECO due diligence, we ensure that any company we position with shares our values. They prioritize their customers' needs as well as their employees. We see this as a key to success and we share that philosophy. Here is the Dumas vision:

- To be recognized as the trusted international provider of world class underground mining services.
- We Care. For employees, health & safety, the environment, and communities.
- We Value Clients. Think like a client, be pro-active, deliver on commitments, make clients successful, add value, and keep clients informed.
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- We Work Together. Teamwork is integral to our culture and behavior; we set team objectives and celebrate team success.
- We Excel. Look and act professional; be action and results oriented; develop expertise; follow the plan-execute-improve cycle; share best practices to promote consistency the Dumas Way.

Who is on the CREECO Dumas Board and where will CREECO Dumas operate from?

CREECO is the majority owner with 50.1% shares and 49.9% owned by Dumas, which will act as the managing partner. I am the president, Jack R Blacksmith is a board member, and Tanya Pash is the Treasurer. There are two reps from Dumas on the Creeco Dumas board as well. The head office is in Ouje-Bougoumou and actual work will be done on the work sight and from the Dumas office in Val-d'Or, Quebec.

What kind of opportunities will CREECO Dumas provide to the Cree?

We will provide specialized training and employment opportunities that will have a main focus on the Cree. This joint venture will also create new business opportunities for Cree entrepreneurs who want to provide business services to the company.

How will CREECO Dumas position for these long-terms opportunities in mining?

Mining developments can last anywhere from 12-40 years or more. People can start and finish a career in a mining project. We want to keep as much of the wealth derived from our lands in the Cree economy and for the greater benefit of our nation.

Do you have any projects on the go or employees in CREECO Dumas as of yet?

Our focus has been on increasing awareness and seeking potential joint venture opportunities. I am very pleased that Creeco Dumas has recently been awarded its first contract on Eleonore project mine site. The hiring process of Cree workers will be done in a safe manner; we want to ensure that any employees who work for CREECO Dumas work in a safe environment.

Please visit our websites for more detailled information:

www.creeco.ca
www.creecodumas.ca
www.dumasmining.com

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something positive to say. Three years later, out of the many calls made in, only one was negative. So, we made an impact in our community and so if it can be done in our community of Great Whale, it can be done anywhere.

The second one: we had a very ugly situation when it came to receiving our sports complex and so I became the chief negotiator there.

I was dealing with a multi-million-dollar construction company and there was only one step during our negotiations during a public meeting and that was it. They had to live with what I wanted. That is the thing with dealing with these kinds of companies; you have to be very careful in what you agree with.

What can you do at the helm of the Cree Nation that others can't?

RS: The things that I don't see happening in the communities is consultations and education. There is also a lack of communication between groups like the CRA and the communities and also the regional entities and the communities.

This is an area that I would improve and I would do it through the AGA resolutions.

Anything else you would like to add?

RS: It is time for this generation to step forward and take over for the Cree Nation. At some point our previous leaders will begin their retirement and so I am encouraging the young generation to step up and take over.

Christopher Napash
Deputy Grand Chief candidate

Christopher Napash

CN: I am from Chisasibi but was born on Fort George Island.

I have been involved in politics both directly and indirectly over the course of my entire career.

I currently work as the Assistant Director of Operations for the Cree Nation of Chisasibi and have done this for the last 18 years. I have also worked for Canada Post for the last 10 years.

Beyond that I have been involved with the community both actively and proactively as a chairperson, a vice-chairperson or a member of many of our local community organizations. I guess that this is because people trusted me enough to elect me into these positions.

Why do you want to run?

CN: The slogan I am running under is "Building Our Nation, Building Our Future: Putting Our People First." For me these are not just words, I really do believe that people come first. We want to run our own nation and build up our own people and so our community organizations are also important to our future and our children's future.

The people also need to be involved in the whole process. When we look at the social issues going on in our communities we see that there are many areas where we need input from the people and they too know what the issues are that are really important to them.

We cannot just assume that we know everything that there is to know about how to set up the policies and procedures, laws and bylaws. We have to get all of this input from all of our respective communities.

As a region we also need strategic plans. This should be spearheaded by the community organizations and by the clientele that they are serving.

I believe that the Grand Chief, the Deputy Grand Chief as well as the Chiefs and Band Councils play a very important role in all of these efforts and realizing the hopes and dreams of the people.

I guess what I can say here is that this position and that of the Grand Chief play a very important role in how to lead the Nation and I really just want to be involved in helping realizing what the possibilities can be.

And what can you do for the Cree Nation that others can't?

CN: While I don't know what the other candidates' capabilities are, what I can say here is that I am very committed to the tasks at hand, whatever they are. Because I have already been very involved in all sorts of community projects and initiatives in the

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past, I was always asked to do so for a reason and that is because I can get things done.

Give me your thoughts on an issue like education. There are many Crees with lower reading levels or who have dropped out. How would you address the issue of education for the Cree youth and adults?

CN: I was involved locally in the parents' committee for four terms and because I have dealt with this issue in our communities in the past.

What I can say here is that we have tried a lot of different things here. Some of which worked, some of which did not work at all.

I think it is important to say here that Cree language is not something that we cannot take for granted.

A few weeks ago I had a wonderful opportunity to discuss this issue with a 101-year-old Elder. He began by saying to me that where he came from people did not speak Cree and that the language was disappearing from his community. This was something happening within his own lifetime, seeing a community that could speak its own language go to one that could not.

"WHEN WE LOOK AT THE SOCIAL ISSUES GOING ON IN OUR COMMUNITIES WE SEE THAT THERE ARE MANY AREAS WHERE WE NEED INPUT FROM THE PEOPLE."

Cree is supposed to be a strong language and it isn't something that we can take for granted anymore. For our language to prosper, we have to work on it in both written and spoken form.

How would you contribute to economic development in Eeyou Istchee?

CN: I have always seen myself as contributing to Cree economic life, especially in my own community as I have been very actively involved in all that happens in our community because of my position within the Band.

This is because everything that happens in Chisasibi comes through our office and so I have been able to see how things have progressed with each project from beginning to end over my 18 years.

Even before that, because of my involvement in other organizations I could say that I have always been involved in one way or another because sometimes from the proposals that we have sent from my office, I was often the one that made these things happen. And, the documents that would be sent were often my documents.

Is there anything that you would like to see happen for the health of the Cree Nation, given that there is still a diabetes epidemic happening and many are also suffering from other illnesses related to obesity?

CN: We need to come up with a vital strategy to promote awareness of some of these diseases that have now become rampant in our communities.

A lot of the things that we are going through, the social issues also, all stem from the way that we are brought up in the communities. Even health promotion is something that needs to be done on an ongoing basis and not just by the Health Board but the whole community.

I know personally what the effects of diabetes are in our communities. I am involved, both at in my personal and professional life, with people who have it. This is not just for the frontline workers that need to be doing things but also the people within the family units.

This has been an era of intensive negotiations between the Crees and the province. How would you support the Grand Chief in this area?

CN: First of all, the Grand Chief has to have the full support of whoever is in the position that I am running for, Deputy Grand Chief.

That person also needs to have support from all of the Chiefs and the full support of the people that are being negotiated for.

All of the negotiations that we are doing are not just for ourselves but to improve the lives of those in the communities. A lot of what will be negotiated is for the benefit of the people and their lives, the community profile and the community organizations.

Give me an example of an issue you have championed and how?

CN: I have been very much involved in many issues in my own community and sometimes at the regional level. One of those things that I am especially proud of is that I have been involved working with children and youth.

I have also been involved in trying to get certain things for people with special needs.

One of my biggest accomplishments was working on getting a new elementary school built in our community, though I wasn't there when it opened. When I was on the school committee, we had lobbied our school administration and other bodies to get what we needed. It took many years and many, many meetings to get that one school.

I could also say that I was very involved in getting Chisasibi named as the community that would be the new home to the police headquarters as I did all of the documentation for that.

What can you do at the helm of the Cree Nation that currently isn't being done?

CN: First of all, I have done a full assessment by hearing the people and what they have to say. I do hear the people's many issues and concerns so that we can determine what is priority one, priority two, and so forth? This is one of the reasons for

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these campaigns: to hear, to acknowledge and to act on their concerns.

Secondly, we then need to formulate the plan, present to the people, following a process of full consultation with them in every step of the way. We cannot have any more done-deals for our people. We have to put the people first. It is them that we are serving – from the very young to the elderly, male and female, in all sectors of our communities.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

CN: I want to say in conclusion that I realize that this position is not an easy one. I am appreciative and truly honoured by this nomination. As I have stated in my slogan, "Building Our Nation, Building Our Future: Putting Our People First." I really believe in these words I've chosen to use. If I am elected, I will do my very best to fulfill this role and the expectations that come with it.

Linda Lillian Shecapio
Deputy Grand Chief candidate

Tell me about you first and your career/political history?

LLS: I have always been involved in politics, and started in my teenage years as a member of the Mistissini Youth Council. I was also elected as a representative to the Board of Directors for the Cree Health Board from 2009-2011 as a Mistissini representative. Furthermore, from the previous local elections in my community, I was nominated and ran for Deputy Chief of Mistissini, which I lost in the run off against my good friend, John S. Matoush. Although I didn't win the seat it was a learning experience and a good sign of people's belief and support for me. As I reflect on that race, I must say now that I am grateful for that wonderful experience and it was a blessing in disguise for me. I am inspired by my people, and I believe although experience is a good quality we are all built to be a leader for ourselves in some capacity. We need to be simply inspired by ourselves with our bold actions. My parents and grandparents instilled in me to have inner strength, be bold, respect and appreciate my feminine beauty, and have confidence in the woman I am now.

Why do you want to run?

LLS: Foremost, as a Cree woman, mother, auntie, and a friend, I was honoured and humbled when I was nominated for the office of Deputy Grand Chief. Pondering the demands, responsibility of political leadership, I can honestly say it was not easy for me to make the decision to accept the nomination and run for the position. My faith and spirit remain with me always. I leaned towards Chimaandou (Great Spirit)/ God and I prayed about it. I opened up and allowed myself to reflect on my many positive abilities and my various work and life experiences.

I believe that my Nishiiyuu Life Skills Training (which I am proud to say, we were specifically trained by our Cree Elders) and my formal education (I received my undergraduate degree in Political Science, concentration in Public Affairs and Policy Analysis at Carleton University back in June 2006) have given me a strong foundation in this role.

First Nations people are headed for a movement of compassionate change, based on a grassroots perspective, and lead by First Nations women. The Idle No More Movement reached the four directions of Mother Earth, is, and continues to be a global success and I was totally blown away with this massive movement! First Nations women are indeed resilient, strong, powerful, and take action. My admiration and respect of all First Nation grandmothers, as movers and shakers, keepers of the continued efforts to preserve traditional languages, and keep our Cree culture alive is what makes me proud and humbled. The strength of women, especially leading this movement is what inspired, ignited and strengthened me to assert and exercise my role as a Cree woman in Eeyou Istchee.

I am a Cree woman who is confident, speaks the truth and will always be grounded with Cree values and principles. I believe in the balance and harmonious relationship between men and women. Because I was raised in a home and built a solid relationship with my dad and late grandfathers at a young age, I was taught to use my voice and advocate for a holistic and gender-balanced approach. I am a Cree woman who values

Linda Shecapio

We Can, We Will

Since time immemorial, the key to our success has been our remarkable ability to face challenges, adapt and prevail stronger than before.

Today, however, we are at an important crossroads. While agreements exist that provide us with the resources and protections we need to succeed and prosper, all is not well.

Too many people have been left behind to face significant challenges and are excluded from the promise of the Cree Nation Dream. Difficult social, economic, education and justice issues are diminishing our potential, eroding our confidence and threatening our future.

I have consulted and listened to our people and have learned that quality of life is not guaranteed by agreements, but by the collective actions we take to promote human dignity, equity, justice and opportunity for all.

Cree Nation leadership must be by our people, for our people. As Grand Chief, under your guidance, wisdom and direction, we can, and we will, build our Nation's capacity through education, improve public safety, promote better health outcomes, address our housing challenges, protect our environment and engage and leverage our greatest assets, our youth and our Elders.

Together, we can, and we will, address poverty and social exclusion, promote community economic development, celebrate our culture and identity, affirm and protect our rights, enhance the voice of community in Cree Nation governance and better protect and honour our life-force, our women.

We can, and we will, prevail over these challenges; we can, and we will, achieve our goal of a safe, harmonious and successful Cree Nation for all.

On July 15, 2013, I respectfully ask for your support and endorsement as Grand Chief to achieve this important plan for the benefit of Eeyou Istchee.

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Ashley Iserhoff for Grand Chief

www.ashleyiserhoff.com

matters of the heart, emotion, connection, and seeks to be engaged with many meaningful human experiences.

I am aware and whole-heartedly understand the need for healing in our nation. I believe I can lead my fellow Cree people, with the guidance of Chimaandou/God and Elders. I, as a Cree woman take action and assert my important and vital role that addresses the needed healing of the heartbeat of Eeyou Istchee.

And what can you do for the Cree Nation that others can't?

LLS: In my healing journey, I am tremendously guided by our Elders. This experience has taught me many aspects of my inner strength and to respect all relations but more importantly, as I experienced inner peace, it allowed me to be fearless and trust the higher power of Chimaandou/God/Universe.

As a candidate for Deputy Grand Chief, and being raised to be humble, I respect my fellow candidates and I believe it is not my position to compare myself to others. One thing you must know about me, where I am in my life, I simply compete for myself. I believe everyone on this Mother Earth is given a gift to share and serve for their life purpose and because we are unique and different we cannot compete against one another.

"WE CANNOT HAVE ANY MORE DONE-DEALS FOR OUR PEOPLE. WE HAVE TO PUT THE PEOPLE FIRST. IT IS THEM THAT WE ARE SERVING – FROM THE VERY YOUNG TO THE ELDERLY, MALE AND FEMALE, IN ALL SECTORS OF OUR COMMUNITIES."

With all due respect to our fellow Cree men, I believe that development and growth of the Cree Nation requires a women's touch. A women's perspective is needed and we must take our unique roles as women, as giving life, sustaining life towards compassion and unity for all people. Our Cree Nation is impacted from all these agreements affecting our people, way of life and rights. It is a call for action amongst us, Cree women, to assert and take back our roles and responsibilities towards a balanced and complimentary relationship with our fellow Cree men and have a women's voice at a political level for the sake of health, wellbeing, and the heart and soul of our Eeyou Istchee.

Give me your thoughts on an issue like education. There are many Crees with lower reading levels or who have dropped out. How would you address education for the Cree youth? Adults?

LLS: Our children and youth are one of the most vulnerable populations, and we, as Cree people are responsible to educate and move forward with effective change and action-based solutions.

Nurturing and education begins in the home. We will never be able to address issues like low graduation rates if we do not define the importance of the "HOME." As women and mothers, we must support our children from the home to the political arena. From parents, family dynamics, and community strength we are each contributing to the development of our children

We parents must be aware that our children's life revolves around their schooling. So, we, Eeyou/Eenou nation need to establish and shift towards a collective approach that will positively affect and address the education in Eeyou Istchee. We all need to get involved and work together, and work towards preserving our Cree language, culture and arts within our education system. This will indeed empower the Eeyou Istchee but also, it will bring positive force of working together and radiating a collective action to our children that will promote enlightenment and a purposeful life for all.

How do you see yourself contributing to Cree economic life?

LLS: From my work experience and observations with clients as a former Career Counsellor (Inland) with the Cree Human Resources Development of Cree Regional Authority, I had the opportunity to do the frontline work and sat on a couple of working groups I discovered that, we, Cree people are really limiting ourselves by creating too much red tape in our policies and programs. We need to make changes in our processes to reflect Cree realities, and the issues at stake.

I have many concerns and questions about the state of economic development in Eeyou Istchee. One being, has the Cree Nation ever strategically planned for their economic quest or road map and vision and its viability within the communities, and the security of our future generations of Eeyou Istchee?

I believe we are one of the strongest Aboriginal groups, and the agreements we sign protect our inherent rights, but we need to plan and understand our needs as a nation before we implement them. We need to foster employment, entrepreneurship and support local community development. We need to plan not only for the economic growth but also the social implications and consequences that are occurring within our territory.

As these massive projects are taking place in Eeyou Istchee, we were promised increased employment in the areas of mining, forestry, and other activities impacting the environment of Eeyou Istchee. Are there any established individual development plans for the Cree workers? What positions are held and mostly composed of Cree workers ranging from management to labour? What other measures are in place, as these activities are happening in Eeyou Istchee?

With this said, the value of education is so crucial to moving Eeyouch/Eenouch forward. The relationship between education, economic development, and the wellbeing of Eeyouch/Eenouch is clear. Education is the foundation of economic development. Economic development, in turn, provides opportunity for greater choices and paths to well-being,

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MIIYUPIMATSIUN. Empowerment and expansion of opportunity and a chance to become independent towards preserving and strengthening is the key for the future of Eeyou/Eenou Istchee.

Is there anything that you would like to see happen for the health of the Cree Nation – rampant diabetes, obesity and illnesses stemming from that?

LLS: As a former member of the Cree Health Board, I saw many files that were active and we really needed to carry out a lot of work, and we needed a lot of support. We need to change our position when thinking of these issues because they are not simply health issues they are issues of MIIYUPIMATSIUN. We need to support each other as entities, and battle these issues together. With our Cree ways we can change our approach in focusing on being preventative not only reactive. My two focuses on social development look at land-based approaches that would emphasize the role that Elders play in our healing and using our land base for programming.

Cree social wellness policy is another area and here we need to define a common approach amongst all entities in planning for social development. As a member of this group I would like to see increased support for this project. It is time that we create a plan that we can all contribute towards. We need to approach social issues and development as a Nation for a positive outcome.

I would like to share my personal insight of healing. I am an individual who believes in being with oneness with oneself and connecting with the well-being of physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual. Having a solid inner foundation for oneself allows one to go beyond present limited human-mind thinking and start thinking positive and it's really about dropping limitations. It allows one to become aware, understand the very essence of life around us and to think with love.

This has been an era of intensive negotiations between the Crees and the province. How would you support the Grand Chief in this area?

LLS: As a strong believer in collective action and solidarity, I am a Cree woman who was raised to respect my ancestors and Elders. Therefore, I would consult my Elders, as they are the gatekeepers of wisdom, traditions, language and culture. Elders are vital towards a direction and vision for the advancement of spiritual and balanced life in Eeyou Istchee. I believe that our new governance is an excellent advancement for our Nation but I would like to see a greater involvement, understanding, and information for our people and communities.

I believe that as a Deputy Grand Chief I would be in a position to complement and mutually support our next Grand Chief… So I will await the candidate's win.

Give me an example of an issue you have championed and how?

LLS: I am a strong, humble and hard-working women, and I can say that I have focused a lot of my energy on serving the Cree people in any capacity, and used skills and knowledge from all areas of my life, as a Cree woman and a mother, whether it be from my home, my community, and my nation.

I have focused my energy on various issues, but I want people to know that I strongly believe that it takes a team to take action – from great, committed and bold people to have a positive impact. We need to recognize our people and our skills and in doing so, take on our work and roles in a collaborative manner. A leader is a part of team, and without the efforts of those involved, the goal would never be reached.

"IN MY CAMPAIGN I AM PAYING ATTENTION ON REPRESENTING OUR ROOTS, RESPECTING OUR ELDERS' GUIDANCE AND A GENDER-BALANCED GOVERNANCE AND MAKING SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT A MAJOR PRIORITY"

What can you do at the helm of the Cree Nation that currently isn't being done?

LLS: Generally, there is always a need for improvement, even with all we have achieved. We are a big success as a Nation. But our Nation is made up of people in communities. In my campaign I am paying attention on representing our roots, respecting our Elders' guidance and a gender-balanced governance and making social development a major priority.

I would like the opportunity as Deputy Grand Chief to focus our efforts on strengthening, empowering and supporting our people.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

LLS: I would like to thank those individuals who nominated me for Deputy Grand Chief and thank all my supporters for believing in me. I would like to encourage all eligible voters, especially youth, to exercise their right to vote. With all respect to our fellow Cree men, as a Cree woman I encourage all our women to own their strength and to participate in the decision-making process. We need to preserve gender-balanced, harmonious, complementary roles and a holistic approach to governance.

I ask for your vote and support. Vote Linda for Deputy Grand Chief!

Robert Kitchen
Deputy Grand Chief candidate

RK: Let me start by thanking the community of Wemindji for nominating me. I have accepted with great honour and I would also like to thank my beautiful wife, Laura, and my two daughters Charity and Sylvia for the great support they have given me

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over the years. I also can't forget to mention our "princess," granddaughter, Shyne.

I really enjoy hunting, fishing, trapping and being an outdoorsman. I like to honour the land in the summer but also in the winter, going out on my skidoo over the many lands I have explored.

I completed high school in Hull, Quebec. I was the captain of all of the school sport teams that I was involved in: junior and senior basketball, football and rugby. I continued on to go to Cégep in Business Administration for three years and then took a lot of courses after that in Economic Development and Finance throughout my career.

I have a very strong economic background and while working at Eeyou Economic Group I had the opportunity to work with many entrepreneurs.

In terms of politics, my brother Abel Kitchen mentored me at a very young age. It was back in 1978 that he would invite me to these assemblies in Val-d'Or that were all related to implementing the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. I sat in on them.

As I got older I was invited to Annual General Assemblies in the communities and so it was there that my interest was sparked and I decided that I would be working for my people.

There are a lot of issues and a lot of implementation that has to be developed in building a Nation. I helped out at the local level in Waswanipi at what they used to call the "Youth Club." This gave me actual hands-on experience in developing activities and ideas that would get the young people active and so I started from there.

I was the local Youth Chief when we established the local youth council in Waswanipi and this is where the whole momentum of the youth movement was established.

I am probably one of the youngest founding members of the Regional Youth Council. I was there when they passed the Resolution in Wemindji to develop the administrative arm of the Cree Nation Youth Council. From there I became the Youth Grand Chief.

I have also since served three terms as a Band Councillor in Waswanipi and was also Chief for a four-year term. In the last election I ran for Deputy Grand Chief.

Why do you want to run?

RK: I have a vision for the future that I would like to share with the Nation. Eeyou Istchee has always been known for its tremendous leadership.

We have overcome some of the greatest of adversities and in turn become a very powerful Nation. But, as a result of all of this, there are still many areas and issues we need to address.

I have a vision for the future and this vision begins with our youth. We need to implement a balanced economic development plan that is in line with our Cree values when it comes to protecting the environment.

Developing the communities and empowering the people will also be a priority to me if elected. We need to develop good, strong businesses and we need to do it right. It's all about less talk and more action.

Robert Kitchen

What can you do for the Cree nation that others can't?

RK: I have this wonderful skill for bringing people together. This is not only my strength but something I have really learned the importance of: bringing groups together.

I am also very good at taking an idea and developing a clear strategy to make it a reality using a grassroots approach.

I am also very good when it comes to coordinating as well as collaborating. I think that we need to continue strengthening our Nation through greater collaborations between the communities and increasing the pride in a united Cree Nation.

Give me your thoughts on an issue like education. There are many Crees with lower reading levels or who have dropped out. How would you address education for the Cree youth and adults?

RK: What we really need to do here is engage our youth in the learning process and encourage interactive lessons where our youth learn by doing and through hands-on experience.

We need relevant materials that relate to our Cree education system and we need to continue to provide alternative education.

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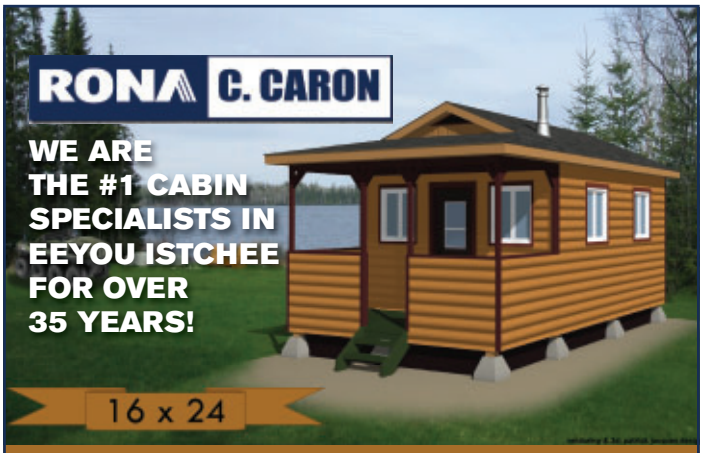

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We also need to hear out the voice of our students and this is part of how the Cree youth council was developed. A youth voice emerged from this need and it just grew from there.

One of the biggest factors affecting our youth is the lack of prosperity in our region. There are limited job opportunities for them to look forward to and as a result there is no real motivation for them to finish their studies.

This prolonged employment issue has impacted many of our youth for many, many years and it not only impacts individuals but entire families. And so by improving the opportunities and creating real value incentives to get educated we can really begin to address these problems.

By engaging the youth and identifying the job opportunities for the youth and by really pushing things like the local career fairs we can create a better reality for our youth.

How do you see yourself contributing to Cree economic life?

RK: While working for Eeyou Economic Group and being part of various different economic Boards, I have had the opportunity to work with all sorts of different entrepreneurs throughout the Cree nation.

"MY GOAL WOULD BE TO WORK WITH THE PEOPLE TO UNITE THE REGION AND COLLECTIVELY CAPITALIZE ON ALL OF THE DEVELOPMENT GOING ON IN THE CREE WORLD."

We definitely need to continue to encourage and promote our entrepreneurs, as we really need to capitalize on these local opportunities because this is where we can stop some of the financial leakage that happens with the Cree communities.

We also need to develop jobs and business opportunities for all who wish to pursue them.

There are a lot of areas out there where we need to focus such as focusing on our Cree energy development opportunities using green energy and renewable power.

We need to capitalize on a lot of development opportunities within our communities. I have experience in these areas as well as in forestry. I was involved in that when I was with Waswanipi. I also have experience in mining; I was the negotiator in an Impact Benefit Agreement and so I understand how to recognize an actual opportunity. I have also worked in developing wind power for Nemaska over the last four years. Another area that we really need to develop is tourism.

Is there anything that you would like to see happen for the health of the Cree Nation – rampant diabetes, obesity and illnesses stemming from that?

RK: We need change, immediate change. We need grassroots programs as well as better coordination between local and regional organizations.

We need to get our people moving and keep them moving through recreation and sports and leisure. This needs to be promoted at the highest level.

Awareness is also one of the key areas here and one of the important factors in fighting illness from an early stage. Many of our people are not aware of the impacts of some of the sugars and fats that they consume.

We have suffered through this illness so much already and so we really need to increase the activity with the young ones and also put more funding towards getting our youth to play sports and physical activity.

We need to develop partnerships with the local and regional entities to fight this illness as it cannot be handled by one department or one organization. There has to be a Cree Nation approach here.

This has been an era of intensive negotiations between the Crees and the province. How would you support the Grand Chief in this area?

RK: With the recent signing of Bill 42 between the Municipality of Baie James and the Crees, I can play a big role when it comes to building strong relationships.

I was born in Matagami and so I know people there. I have also lived in the Cree communities and so I know the area. I think a strong team gets more done.

I believe that with my strong economic background I can help develop a strategy where win/win formula can be achieved where the MBJ and the Crees can all benefit.

Give me an example of an issue you have challenged and how you championed it?

RK: I think being one of the youngest founding members of the Cree Nation Youth Council and building the economic arm from scratch is an area that I really feel I championed.

Building a voice for the youth is something that has seen us develop many of our greatest leaders of today. To name a few: Romeo Saganash, Matthew Mukash, Paul Gull, Danny Tomatuk, John Longchap, Lisa Petagumskum, Ashley Iserhoff, John Matoush and so many more.

So many have come from this and there will be so many more to come from this structure.

What can you do at the helm of the Cree Nation that currently isn't being done?

RK: I would really like to see improved communication with the people, better coordination with the people and positive change through the people. This is the way I see it. My goal would be to work with the people to unite the region and collectively capitalize on all of the development going on in the Cree world.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

RK: Let's talk, more action!

Aboriginal couture

Inukt melds First Nations culture into its fashion

by **Akiva Levitas**

Over the years, Canadian artists and designers have been inspired by the rich imagery and symbolism of First Nations culture. But walking down the streets of downtown Montreal, which offers a good representation of the Canadian fashion scene, the style seems to be a mishmash of American and European styles manufactured in the Far East. Bucking this trend, a new brand has emerged that is offering Canadians a part of their cultural history while making them look good.

Inspired by First Nations culture and with over 20 years of experience working in the Paris fashion scene, Nathalie Benarroch founded Inukt in September 2012, in order to promote First Nations and Canadian artisans around the world.

After working as the creative director at Femme Magazine and at BCBG in France for 23 years, Benarroch returned to Canada. "Being back in Canada after two decades my perspective changed. I realized how vast and beautiful this country is. In the past I had taken things about Canada for granted, but now they inspire and fascinate me," Benarroch said.

The Inukt brand is a part of the global style-hunting trend that has taken over the fashion world in recent years. Benarroch and her husband were inspired by a simple road trip to Wendake, where they met Ginette Bastien, the third-generation owner of a factory, said Mitchel Garfield, Benarroch's husband and co-founder of Inukt.

This meeting led to the creation of over 20 styles of First Nations-inspired footwear, which includes the Mauhican red-on-red ankle-length boot and the men's Macawi moccasin boot crafted from the iconic Woolrich blanket and bull hide. These boots are sure to turn heads from the forests of northern Quebec to the runways of New York.

Inukt has been making its mark with a lineup of moccasins made in Wendake. Their moccasins take the traditional look to a whole new level as a high-end fashion statement.

The brand not only encompasses clothing, but also a selection of furniture, such as chairs and tables designed by Canadian artists. "All designers today don't like to be limited by one source of expression. Our whole aesthetic can be applied to furniture and jewelry among other things," Benarroch said. "That's how we achieved our total-look brand image."

With the entire current lineup of high-end bags, shirts, shoes, accessories and furniture being manufactured in Quebec, Benarroch is working on turning Inukt into a community of Canadian artists, designers and producers who can have their work shown around the world.

All of Inukt's products and featured artists can be found on their website Inukt.com as well as in Montreal boutiques and, in the near future, Beijing. For now, there is still much work to be done in order to make the brand take off. However, with increasing globalization, Canada's Aboriginal culture is sure to be embraced as it is introduced to the far reaches of the fashion world.

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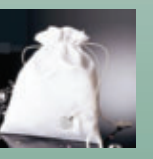

Bust and boom

A high-profile raid in Waswanipi gets locals talking about drugs and crime

by Jesse Staniforth

Some people said that the police had their guns drawn. Others even said that shots were fired. As the rumours circulated, however, it became clear that few in Waswanipi were certain of whether the police raid that took place on June 6 was even a drug bust or whether it was something else entirely.

Only a week-and-a-half later, on June 17, did the Waswanipi Eeyou Eenou Police Force (EEPF) go public with its information about the raid, which took place at the Poplar Street residence of a suspect identified by the EEPF as Brandon Cooper Iserhoff Trapper.

EEPF Lieutenant Harry Charles stressed that though they expected there might be drugs involved, the raid on Trapper's house was mainly about weapons.

"We seized a few firearms, a rifle, a shotgun and a .22," said Lieutenant Charles. "He had a few ninja swords and some extendable batons – which are illegal, only police have them. Also, he had a lot of different kind of knives that he purchased down south."

Having rifles and shotguns at home in a Cree community wouldn't normally be cause for alarm. But Charles said the EEPF had already considered this suspect as a person of interest. And he emphasized that the EEPF had been warned that the guns were not necessarily kept for hunting purposes.

Charles said a member of the community alleged that Trapper was known for selling drugs. The informant told the EEPF that Trapper was keeping the guns to use against other people, and that this was especially a problem because he was in a house where there were children and Elders.

"The weapons inside the house were ready and meant for the police, if ever they came to the house," Charles said he was told. "He kept them near his bed [and told others] that, one of these days if the police ever showed up, he'll be ready for that. That is when we got the warrant for his arrest and to search the house."

For that reason, the EEPF enlisted the support of the Surété de Québec in the raid. According to Waswanipi Youth Chief Freddy Dixon, their preparations were obvious.

Gathered near Trapper's house, "There were many SQs and many police from Waswanipi," Dixon said. "A half-hour later, that's when the bust happened, and right behind my place, that's where they caught him."

> "THE WEAPONS INSIDE THE HOUSE WERE READY AND MEANT FOR THE POLICE, IF EVER THEY CAME TO THE HOUSE,"

Charles said the suspect did not try to fight the police.

"Once we arrived, he fled the scene," Charles said. "We pursued him on foot and apprehended the suspect right beside the new arena complex. There was no sign of violence. I know that some people heard stories that the EEPF and SQ drew their pistols. That is not true, the officers never took out their pistols."

Following his arrest, Trapper was taken to the police station, before being transferred that evening to the detention centre in Amos. The following week, he was released.

"The file was not complete," said Charles. "We had to wait for [the Crown's] file to be submitted for our file to be completed. Once the crown attorney verifies the file, that's when they're going to authorize us to issue another warrant for his arrest."

At the moment, Trapper is free, though he has been given a series of conditions to abide by: he reports once a week to the police station, maintains an 11 pm-to-7 am curfew, and is not allowed to have any weapons in his home.

Asked to comment on what would happen if the EEPF were able to issue another warrant for Trapper's arrest, Charles said he could not comment. However, Charles added that he did not expect a second raid to find any proof of drugs or other crime, saying he believed that if the subject was involved in any crime, he would be smart enough to hide it.

"That's the feedback we got [from the informant], that he never keeps his stuff inside the house," Charles said. "Maybe he gives it to his friends, to keep it someplace else. The subject had over $900 in his pocket when he was arrested, but we didn't find any drugs in the house."

A high-profile bust is enough to get people talking, but for many in Waswanipi, drug use and abuse is too commonplace to qualify as news.

"Each year the number of users goes up, especially the young ones," said Youth Chief Dixon. He noted that drug use can begin in children as young as 10 years old, and that it becomes more common in those as young as 12.

"But it's not just young people, it's everybody," Dixon stressed. "Almost everybody uses cocaine. You cannot force people to quit. It's part of their shame, coming from Indian residential schools. People are trying to deal with their problems, but they're trying to have fun at the same time. They want

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Elma Moses

to numb their pain. It goes from generation to generation."

Speaking for the opposite end of the generation spectrum, Irene Otter of the Waswanipi Elders' Council said, "When we do Waswanipi clean-up day, you see little signs of drugs and alcohol here and there. We're picking them up, and trying to tell people, 'clean up your own yards.' We see what's going on."

But Otter bristles at the idea that this is a problem specific to Waswanipi.

"We're always looked at as the bad community because we're on the road and easily accessible," she said. "I'm not keen on that. You can't throw everybody in the same boat. I know drugs are prevalent in all Cree communities."

Because Otter has worked in drug-and-alcohol-abuse awareness as well as in suicide prevention, she said she has long been aware of the depth of the problems caused by drugs in Cree society. When she heard the news of the raid, Otter said, she was pleased.

"It's about time they do something about it in this community. It's not good to hide the things that are going on. Sweeping them under the carpet doesn't help. I'm glad the police are trying to do their job. It's the community's responsibility too – you have to help out, if you want to better community."

Part of the problem, said Dixon, is that people are insecure about seeking help.

"Even though we have a Cree Health Board, (people) are too shy, and they don't have enough self-esteem to go there. They don't believe that they can change."

Because addiction is so hard to treat for precisely these reasons, it requires easily accessible services that can provide help to addicts as soon as they're willing to seek it. However, such programs are limited in Waswanipi as in a lot of other communities, and Otter pointed at the absence of proper resources for dealing with addiction as exacerbating the problem.

"There's one Alcoholics Anonymous meeting [per week] – we used to have Narcotics Anonymous, but funding was stopped, so it's not ongoing. Sometimes the funding is a problem."

When it comes to chasing drug crime, Lt. Charles agreed that Waswanipi is a harder community to police because of its proximity to Highway 113. "It's an easy access. There are a lot of people coming in and out. It's very difficult to check who's coming in."

At the same time, many in the community are unwilling to report crimes to the local police because they fear retribution, so Charles was happy to report the introduction of the new anonymous Crime Stoppers program, which will soon be operating across all the communities of Eeyou Istchee.

"If there's anything suspicious, or if they know of drug dealers," Charles said, "people can call a 1-800 number to make their complaints." Working in partnership with Crime Stoppers, the EEPF will make its investigation and if the call results in charges being laid, the caller will be receive a reward.

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Take notice that the CANDIDATES for the offices of Grand Chief/Chairperson and Deputy Grand Chief/Vice-Chairperson of the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and the Cree Regional Authority are as follows.

GRANDCHIEF/CHAIRPERSON

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MATTHEW COON-COME
ASHLEY ISERHOFF

DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF/CHAIRPERSON

ROBERT KITCHEN
KENNY LOON
RODNEY MARK
CHRISTOPHER NAPASH
ROGER SANDY
LINDA LILLIAN SHECAPIO
VIRGINIA WABANO
BERTIE WAPACHEE

The qualification for eligibility to vote in the elections is as follows:

a) **To be a Cree beneficiary of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.**
b) **To be of the age of majority at the date of the elections (18 years of age on July 15, 2013).**
c) **Not to be affected by any legal incapacity.**

THE SCHEDULE FOR THE ELECTIONS IS AS FOLLOW:

ADVANCE POLLS: **Thursday July 11, 2013**
Polling Hours – 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

ELECTIONS: **Monday July 15, 2013**
Polling Hours – 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

An elector who wishes to vote by mail may request a mail-in ballot from the office of the Chief Returning Officer.

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UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

Putting up with mosquitoes

by Xavier Kataquapit

The Sah-kah-mel or mosquitoes are really, really bad this year. I think I have used up every swear word I ever learned in Cree, English and even French complaining about these little insects. No matter what I do they manage to find me out on the land and even when I am inside my camp.

I have tried just about every product I can get my hands on to keep them away, but they simply scoff at my efforts. The most bothersome thing is that they hound me constantly with their high-pitched buzzing sound. One is bad enough but when there are hundreds it is quite maddening. I don't recall a spring and summer as bad as this one but then again I think that is how I feel about mosquitoes every year.

Strangely enough I found that when I more or less just give up and let them attack me at will, lo and behold the little creatures seemed to bother me less. I don't understand why this helpless tactic would work but it seems to. Actually I have even managed to appreciate them for their amazing resolve to survive for millions of years.

When I took the time to think about it, I realized that they predate humans by millions of years and that they actually even fed off dinosaurs. Although we consider our species to be at the top of the food chain, we pale in comparison to mosquitoes when it comes to shear survivability. They have managed to make it through all the crises that have affected our planet over millions of years. While thousands or even millions of species on Earth have become extinct, the simple mosquito has come through with flying colours and seems to have a bright future ahead no matter what peril comes to our planet.

While taking the time to watch landing mosquitoes the other day I noticed many interesting things. They have the ability to track warm-blooded creatures anywhere. They do this by being able to sense the carbon monoxide that we emit through our breathing and they also have the ability to locate us through odour. I watched as mosquitoes kept prodding my skin with their little spears looking for the best place to draw blood. They actually insert through their saliva an anti-coagulant that allows them to more easily extract our blood. The saliva is what causes one to itch after being bitten by a mosquito.

Only the female mosquitoes have the ability and role to draw blood from an animal. These hardy insects can survive freezing and dry conditions to emerge when water becomes available and the temperature is right. They feed mainly at dusk and dawn. Amazingly, they mate, and then the female lays her eggs in water. When the eggs hatch, there is a larval stage and soon the mosquito forms and takes to flight. Males and females seek each other out to mate, then the female looks for a good bloody meal before she lays her eggs. The most serious infestations of mosquitoes occur in warm, wet places and in terms of its habitat, these tiny insects can be found all over the world.

Although mosquitoes in Canada's north are not known to carry disease, there is growing concern about the West Nile virus. In warmer tropical climates throughout Africa, South America and Southeast Asia, mosquitoes are very dangerous and transmit malaria and dengue. Malaria kills many thousands of people every year.

So, while you are battling this year's infestation of mosquitoes don't forget they have been around much longer than we have and will certainly be on this planet long after we humans are gone. That won't seem like any consolation while you are beating at these pesky insects and scratching at your bites. Just be thankful that of the thousands of species of mosquitoes worldwide our northern friends do not yet spread dangerous disease.

They are part of the northern-wilderness experience in spring and summer and they are as familiar as red sunsets, the croaking of frogs, the tweeting of birds and the honking of the Canada Goose. That buzzing you hear has been around since the dawn of time.

PERSONAL MESSAGES

Congratulations to my one and only niece Tracey Ann Loon for her graduation on June 7, 2013, from the University of Ottawa. Bravo and I am so proud of you!! God bless, from your auntie Mary in OJ.

The thing that annoys me most about JBCCS announcements or news is "TIM HORTONS." I mean isn't that Mistissini's local news, that CINI FM should announce rather than the James Bay Cree Communications Society? We need more news around James Bay. Concerned Listener, Jamesbay Cree

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Human Rights education and information activities for community organisations The Education and Cooperation Division of the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse is offering your community association free of charge a variety of human rights workshops and resources. The main goal of the workshops is to promote a culture of human rights throughout Quebec society. We will be dealing with key human rights values, as well as their accompanying responsibilities. To obtain more information, we invite you to read the enclosed leaflet or to consult our website at: http://www.cdpdj.qc.ca. Click on English, and go to Training, and then Community groups. If you are interested in any of the workshops, please do not hesitate to contact us to plan a workshop at a time convenient for you.

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Meetings in Mistissini: Alcoholics Anonymous, Tuesday's Hope Meeting, are at 7PM at the Mamou-Wechidodow Building Amisk Street. **Alanon Meetings** are on Tuesdays as well at 7PM at the Mamou-Wechidodow Building Amisk Street. **Alateen Meetings** are on Mondays at 3:30PM at the Reception Centre 282 Main Street. These meetings are all open meetings.

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Youth Helpline: 1-800-263-2266 (www.teljeunes.com)

Parents' Helpline: 1-800-361-5085
(www.parenthelpline.ca)

Missing Children's Network: They'll help you find kids who have run away or disappeared.
514-843-4333
(www.enfant-retourquebec.ca)

Drug Addiction help and reference: 1-800-265-2626
(www.drogue-aidereference.qc.ca)

Gambling Addiction help and reference: 1-800-265-2626
(www.info-reference.qc.ca)

S.O.S. Conjugal Violence:
1-800-363-9010
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Health and Sexuality Resources Center: 1-888-855-7432 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) (www.criss.org)

Gay Helpline: 1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal: 1-866-403-4688
(www.nwsm.info)

Suicide Action Québec:
1-866-277-3553
(www.suicide-quebec.net)

Residential School Survivors: A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at: www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources

Concordia University, Montreal:

The Centre for Native Education has changed its name to the Aboriginal Student Resource Centre (ASRC). The new name is inclusive of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis students the centre serves and recognizes its role as a resource for the Concordia community. For any further details contact: aboriginalcentre@concordia.ca or 514-848-2424 ext. 7327.

If you are an artist who does painting, carving (wood, bone, soapstone, etc.), traditional items (moccasions, snowshoes, beading, etc.) and more- contact Will Nicholls at 514-272-3077 or email:nation@beesum-communications.com for furthering your career.

Take action engaging unity, compassion, and gender-balanced towards healing the heartbeat of Eeyou Istchee

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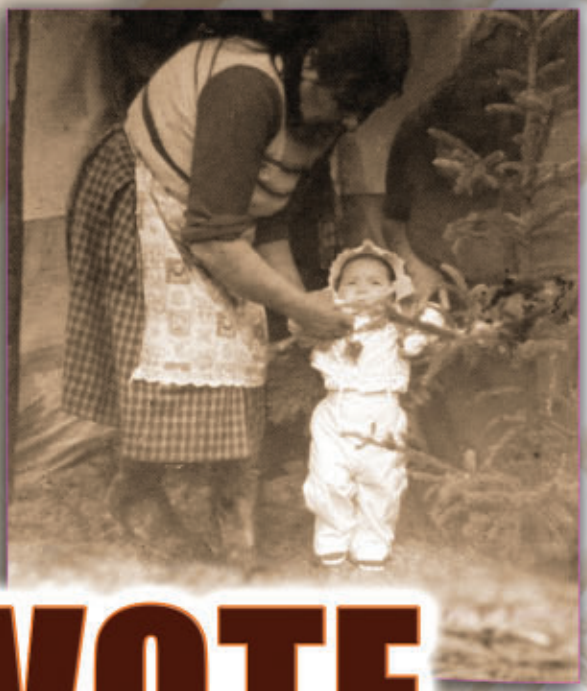

Wisdom - Truth - Humility - Courage - Honesty - Respect - Love

VOTE for Deputy Grand Chief Linda.ca

In honor of our ancestors and our elders, and in respect of vital components of Wisdom, Truth, Humility, Courage, Honesty, Respect and Love, and our way of life, language and culture, for the delivery of the overall well being and in spirit of Miiyuupimatsiun of Eeyou Istchee, I see our nation in the direction of collective approach and promoting the advancement of the following:

1) Elders' are vital for the direction and vision in the advancement of spiritual and balanced life in Eeyou/Eenou Istchee. As gatekeepers of wisdom, traditions, language and culture, we need their participation, guidance and wisdom through a permanent seat on the Council Board and other board or committees in the Cree Nation.

2) Women give and sustain life and it is our responsibility to care for the life on this Mother Earth. I wish to create stronger ties, and a complementary role for women in our governance structure, we need a gender balanced and holistic approach in governing if we want to truly make a difference in our communities. Women need a VOICE through political representation.

3) We need to make a statement that our HOMES and FAMILIES are important, and we can address social issues by focusing on them through support. Our children and youth are one of the most vulnerable populations of young people in Canada, we, as Eeyou/Eenou are responsible to educate, move forward through real change, and implement action-based solutions for a better future and embrace to rise above for all our children and youth in Eeyou/Eenou Istchee.

4) Community-based collaboration and intergenerational relationships based on respect in Eeyou/Eenou Istchee, believe in the importance of the protection and preservation of our Cree Language, Culture and Arts. We can do this by encouraging initiatives to promote the pride of Eeyou/Eenou Istchee.

5) Fundamental Cree values and principles towards the Cree Governance, support for a balanced, inclusive political structure that is capacity building, innovative, sustainable and viable in all areas of Cree development. Focusing on social development through the Cree social wellness policy to have health, healing and Miiyuupimatsiun in Eeyou/Eenou Istchee. Increasing the recognition of our successes in education by hiring Cree students. Focusing on approaches that lead to sustainable and viable economic development in communities. Respecting our rightful duty in protecting and preserving our mother earth and the environment.

Dr. Matthew Coon Come

for Grand Chief in 2013

"Continuing Our Mission Of Nation Building"

Four Pillar Platform

1st – Youth Engagement

- We will bring the message of the Capacity-Building Roundtable to all Cree Youth.
- We will take the message to the communities' youth that the future depends on them and they must prepare themselves.
- We will embrace the energy of our Cree youth and channel it toward Cree nation-building.

2nd – Starting at Home

- We must recognize the social problems in our communities.
- We will appeal to individuals, families, communities to acknowledge the problems so that solutions can be identified.
- We will address the housing shortage.

3rd – Protecting Our Rights

- We will protect the land and the people from uranium mining.
- We will leave no one behind: Washaw Sibi.
- We will help our aboriginal brothers and sisters across the country assert their aboriginal rights.

4th – Getting Our House in Order/Building the Nation

- Economic Development.
- We must ensure that our people are prepared to take advantage of the economic opportunities coming from all of our Agreements.
- We will build Cree Nation Government.

30 Years of Achievements in fighting for Aboriginal rights

- **Benefits for Cree communities**
- **Benefits for Cree Nation**
- **Moving the Aboriginal agenda forward nationally**

...So Much at Stake

Continuing to build our Nation requires:

- **Experience**
- **Courage**
- **Walking the Talk**

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